

AMBASSADOR'S OPENING REMARKS
T-TIP CONFERENCE: FACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS IN POLAND
FEBRUARY 7, 2014

Thank you to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Ministry of Economy, and to the American Chamber of Commerce for all of your work in putting together today's event. Premier Piechocinski, Under Secretary Kacperczyk, and Under Secretary Dycha, I particularly want to thank you for your personal participation today.

It is a very busy and promising time for the bilateral relationship between the United States and Poland, and for the entire U.S. – European relationship. In the last week Poland hosted three U.S. cabinet members: Secretary of Defense Hagel, Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson, and Attorney General Holder. These visits further elevated our efforts to support Poland's defense modernization, and better coordinated our wide range of common interests, from support for a democratic Ukraine to tighter law enforcement cooperation.

As Secretary of State Kerry pointed out during his visit here in November, our commercial and economic relationship with Poland and with Europe is just as important as our security ties. And we have been hard at work to expand that as well.

U.S. and EU negotiators have now completed three rounds of negotiation of the most ambitious trade and investment agreement we have ever undertaken, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or T-TIP. In today's opening session, U.S. Trade Representative to the EU, Elena Bryan will discuss the broad contours of the agreement that is taking shape as we move towards the next round of T-TIP negotiations in March.

The United States and the EU are committed to a comprehensive and high-standard trade and investment agreement that will create jobs and growth on both sides of the Atlantic. The agreement will build on what is already the largest single commercial relationship in the world, with \$2.7 billion worth of goods and services trade flowing between us each day, and nearly \$4 trillion invested in each other's economies¹. More than 13 million jobs in the United States and EU already depend on the U.S.-EU economic partnership².

A successful T-TIP negotiation will have immediate effects by reducing or eliminating existing barriers to trade and investment, and will help the United States and the EU work together to avoid creating such barriers in the future. Moreover, it will allow the United States and the EU to set a global standard for trade liberalization that reflects our strong commitment to protecting the public interest.

¹ <http://www.ustr.gov/countries-regions/europe-middle-east/europe/european-union>

² <http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/blog/2013/November/Five-Things-to-know-about-TTIP>

One of the unique aspects of the T-TIP negotiation is the degree to which negotiators on both sides of the Atlantic are listening to the input of businesses and civil society. During each round of negotiations, the negotiators themselves took time to meet extensively with interested parties to allow them to express their particular interests and concerns. In that same spirit, today's event is an opportunity for everyone here to learn about the negotiations directly from Polish and U.S. government representatives, and for businesses to voice their own expectations of T-TIP.

I ask that you take an active role in making T-TIP the best trade and investment partnership possible. Tell us where you think we should focus our efforts. Let us know what business issues you hope T-TIP will help you solve and how you believe T-TIP will impact consumers, businesses, and the Polish economy as a whole.

One of the reasons the Polish and U.S. governments welcome events like this is that they allow us to make sure that accurate information about T-TIP is reaching the public and all sectors of the economy. This kind of outreach helps to inform our negotiators about your priorities as well as offset any misconceptions people might have about what T-TIP will mean.

That's why it is important that businesses, the media, and other economic interests that support T-TIP join with the EU and the Polish and U.S. governments to inform others of the importance of a successful T-TIP negotiation. So I encourage all of you to help spread that message, and again, I applaud the American Chamber of Commerce and the Polish government for their work in organizing this event.